

August 2003

Science Fair Official –

The Office of Naval Research, on behalf of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, is pleased to continue to support both regional and state Science and Engineering Fairs for 2003-2004.

We continue to seek out qualified and motivated volunteers from throughout the Navy and Marine Corps to represent our sea services at your fairs, serving both as judges and award presenters. As we reach out to these volunteers, we are looking to provide them with a better understanding of their roles. On our web site, we have substantially updated our discussion of what we expect of individuals assigned as Naval Science Awards Judges. We direct our judges to utilize these criteria in selecting student award winners.

Please register your fairs for 2003-2004 on the Office of Naval Research web site at <http://www.onr.navy.mil>, selecting the **Science Fair** link and then selecting **Register a Science Fair**. When you register, we ask that you pause to review our guidance to those supporting you under **Judges and Presenters**. We look for your comments on this material via e-mail (admin@aas-world.org).

We are implementing two changes to the registration process this year:

(1) When registering your fair(s) this year, we ask that you register multiple fairs scheduled for a single site and date as a single fair. Thus, if you separate your science fair into four regions, we ask that you enter your fair as “Science Fair, Regions 1-4.” Similarly, if you designate separate sub-fairs for Life Sciences and Physical Sciences, we ask that you again submit as a single fair, and indicate the separation in your title, as “Science Fair, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences.” You should show in your single entry the total number of senior and junior projects that you expect will be entered for all fairs. This will allow us to better assign judges to your event.

(2) In your entry of your fair’s title, we also ask that you provide your fair’s web site URL so that our personnel may review all information you put out prior to your event.

Grades 9-12: For senior project award recipients, we will provide you with packages consisting of certificates and award letters in which recipients can select sources for gift certificates of \$50.00 for regional fairs and \$75.00 for state fairs. Students will be directed to return their award letters to the Academy of Applied Science, indicating their choice of certificate.

Two certificates and award letters shall be provided for fairs with up to 100 senior participants. For larger fairs, additional package will be provided based on the number of student participants. A maximum of 10 packages will be provided to any one science fair. We do ask that you follow up at the end of each fair cycle to let us know the final

number of student participants in your fair. This will allow us to budget for awards for next year's fairs.

Grades 8 and below: At the junior or middle school level, we are providing certificates of accomplishment for students. **There are no monetary awards at the junior level.**

We hope you will allow our personnel the access to students and projects that their assignments as judges require. We expect that they will work closely with you, filling in for your assigned judges as you need them. Still, their primary task will be to conduct a professional assessment of projects deserving Naval Science Awards.

We recognize that it is our responsibility to provide you with qualified volunteer judges and awards presenters to represent us. We have not always been able to provide representation in adequate numbers. To remedy this shortfall, we are working to identify additional personnel who can help us to fulfill both judging and presentation roles.

We ask to be permitted to judge all projects, and to present our Naval Science Awards to those students judged as recipients, at all fairs at which we provide representatives. **If we cannot find such representation, we ask that you equitably make these awards.** We will then follow up with additional effort to find judges and presenters for your next science fair.

Please help us in our effort by registering your science fair by 1 December of the academic year, or by 90 days prior to the science fair date. This will allow us time to find the volunteers we need.

We look forward to another year of developing relationships and recognizing the hard work and talent of the many aspiring science students.

Sincerely,

Laura Petonito
Office of Naval Research
Education Programs Manager